

**Department of Health
Health Professions Quality Assurance Division
Medical Quality Assurance Commission
Interpretive Statement**

Title:	Credentialing Of Physicians For Reentry After Not Practicing After An Extended Amount Of Time.	Number: MD2008-01
Reference:	WAC 246-919-370 (d)	
Contact:	Beverly A. Teeter, Program Manager.	
Effective Date:	January 11, 2008	
Supersedes:		
Approved:	January 11, 2008	
Chair:	Cabell Tennis, J.D., Chair Medical Quality Assurance Commission	
Signature	On file	

Background Information

The Commission receives applications from practitioners who have been out of practice for an extended period of time. The Commission wishes to have a consistent approach when processing these applications.

Analysis

WAC 246-919-370 provides as follows:

(1) The commission may require an applicant or licensee to pass the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) or any other examination deemed appropriate. An applicant or licensee may be required to take an examination when the commission has concerns with the applicant's or licensee's ability to practice competently for reasons which may include, but are not limited to, the following:

(d) Not having practiced for an interval of time.

There is no definition of "interval of time." The Commission has the ability to interpret the rule to define "interval of time."

Interpretation Position

The Commission interprets "Not having practiced for an interval of time" to mean more than the immediate two years prior to the application. Therefore, in accordance with WAC 246-919-370 (d) the Commission may on a case-by-case basis require any applicant who has not practiced for a period of two years or more to take and successfully pass the SPEX or any other examination deemed appropriate.
